

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that J. Richard Outhier, 37, Madison, Wis., was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 54 months in prison for bank fraud and aggravated identity theft. Outhier pleaded guilty to this charge on May 7, 2008.

In November 2007, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) received information that an individual in Madison had stolen the identity of a young man with Down Syndrome in the Boston area. The victim's mother learned through a credit history check that several credit cards and an auto loan were obtained using her son's personal identifying information. Wisconsin Department of Transportation records further revealed that somebody had applied for and received a driver's license in the victim's name.

On December 26, 2007, USSS agents interviewed the defendant, J. Richard Outhier. Outhier admitted that he had stolen the victim's identity. He explained that he posed as a British Broadcasting Company (BBC) reporter, interviewed the victim's mother, pretended to be interested in Down Syndrome awareness, and obtained personal identifying information, which allowed him to obtain a social security card

and Wisconsin driver's license in the victim's name. Outhier then obtained several credit cards and an auto loan in the victim's name.

Outhier was also sentenced yesterday for access device fraud committed in the Northern District of Texas. Outhier admitted that while he was an emergency medical technician at a hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, he stole the personal identifying information of two patients who were admitted for emergency care. Outhier later used the personal identifying information and obtained several credit cards in the victims' names.

Chief District Judge Crabb stated that the defendant's conduct was despicable and that he intentionally preyed upon vulnerable victims.

The charges against Outhier were the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Secret Service. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

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